Gauge conversion in South Western Railway

2075. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway tracks identified for gauge conversion in the South Western Railway; and

(b) the details of the amount of funds sanctioned, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Gauge conversion of Kolar-Chickballapur (96.5 Kms), Mysore-Chamarajanagar (61 Kms), Shimoga-Talguppa (97 Kms) and Bagalkot-Gadag (93 Kms) sections have been taken up.

(b) An outlay of Rs. 244 crore has been provided for these works during 2007-08.

Construction of overbridge at Gohana Road Phatak in Haryana

2076. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is heavy traffic jam since there is no overbridge over Gohana Road Phatak, in Sonipat, Haryana;

(b) whether there is any proposal to construct an overbridge here, in view of the long pending demand of the public;

(c) whether it is a fact that a demand from the public was submitted before the Standing Committee on its tour to this region and the Committee agreed to their request;

(d) if so, whether Government would consider construction of an overbridge in view of the inconvenience faced by the commuters; and

(e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. There is heavy traffic line up on closure of the level crossing for train passing.

(b) The level crossing is busy with traffic density of 9,54,900 Train Vehicle Units. Work of road overbridge at level crossing No. 27-B on Sonepat-Gohana Road at Sonepat on Delhi Ambala Section has been sanctioned in the Works Programme of 2006-07. Profile sketch for it has been approved and work shall be taken up for physical execution.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Work has been sanctioned as per details given above.

Rail projects under Remote Area Rail Sampark Yojana

2077. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around 80 rail projects worth over Rs. 20,000 crores mostly located in backward regions of Orissa, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, etc., under the Remote

Area Rail Sampark Yojana have not yet been started on account of lack of funds and other reasons;

(b) if so, the details thereof *inter-alia* indicating the projects that are located on the ECoR rail system; and

(c) what is the time-frame within which these would be taken up and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Remote Area Rail Sampark Yojana (RARSY) was proposed to be launched for new line and gauge conversion projects primarily taken up on socio-economic considerations to provide rail connectivity to backward, hilly, tribal and far-flung areas of the country. However, the Yojana did not take off as funds could not be tied up. These projects including that of East Coast Railway (ECoR) have been taken up and will be completed in coming years as per availability of resources.

(c) No time frame is feasible to be fixed and ongoing projects would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

Compensation to kins of deceased in rail accidents in Bihar

†2078. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the cases pending regarding demand of compensation by the family of the deceased persons died in the railway accidents in Bihar;

(b) whether any time schedule has been fixed for taking decision;

(c) if so, by when the hearing of the pending cases would be completed; and

(d) by when the compensation would be paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) 44 cases are pending in Patna, Kolkata and Ranchi Benches of Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT) on this account.

(b) to (d) The decision about compensation to be paid by Railways is taken by Railway Claims Tribunal which is a quasi-judicial body for which no time-frame is prescribed.

Badam Pahar-Keonjhar Rail Link

2079. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has conducted the survey of Badam Pahar-Keonjhar rail link alongwith Baripada-Bangriposi rail link;

(b) if so, how much funds have been estimated for these projects;

(c) if so, by when the above project would be started and completed; and

(d) what is the progress regarding the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, the survey for Badam Pahar-Keonjhar new line has been taken up

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.